

OBITUARY

Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.

J A FRASER ROBERTS

CBE, FRS, DSC, MD, FRCP, FRCPsych

Dr J A Fraser Roberts, who until 1964 was director of the Medical Research Council's clinical genetics unit at the Institute of Child Health and later was geneticist to the paediatric research unit at Guy's Hospital, died on 15 January. He was 87.

John Alexander Fraser Roberts was educated at Denbigh Grammar School and after service in the



first world war with the Royal Welch Fusiliers read biology at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He then went to the Institute of Animal Genetics in Edinburgh University, where he became interested in the inheritance of coat colour and pattern in sheep and discovered a series of genes

controlling this. After obtaining a DSc from Edinburgh he was appointed, in 1928, biologist to the wool industry's research association.

At about this time he became increasingly interested in genetics in man and as a result in 1933 joined the Burden Mental Research Trust department at Stoke Park Hospital, Bristol, later becoming its director. There he was responsible for many largescale surveys throwing light on genetic and other factors determining mental abilities. Not surprisingly, he felt the need for a medical degree, and graduated MB, ChB at Edinburgh in 1936. Although he is reported to have said to his colleagues that he hung up his stethoscope the same day, it was only four years later that he wrote the excellent book *An Introduction to Medical Genetics*. This was the bible for all young postwar geneticists and has gone now to eight editions, the last two having had Marcus Pembrey as coauthor.

During the second world war FR served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a surgeon commander and consultant in medical statistics to the navy, and when it ended he went as lecturer in genetics to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From that time onwards he made substantial contributions to knowledge on geographical variations in the frequencies of the blood group genes. In 1953-4 he, with Aird and other colleagues, provided the first conclusive evidence of associations between ABO blood groups and diseases of adult life—namely, cancer of the stomach and peptic ulcer. These discoveries stimulated widespread investigations with bearing on cancer research among others. It was largely owing to him that the subject, which could easily have become confused, developed on sound lines. He also played an important part in genetic studies on arterial pressure and hypertension.

FR flourished in the days when genetics seemed less serious than it does now, and he was one of a formidable cohort, including Fisher, Haldane, and Penrose, who regularly appeared at genetics meet-

ings and delighted the young with their outspoken arguments. With John on these occasions was his first wife, the actress Doris Hare, whom he had married in 1941 and by whom he had two daughters. John and Doris were a most attractive couple and totally complementary, he the brilliant intellectual—though always urbane and approachable—and she the superb mimic and life and soul of genetics gatherings for many years; it was most sad when the marriage broke up. However, John was very fortunate in his second wife, Margaret Ralph, whom he married in 1975. She had helped him in his work for nearly 40 years and continued to do so until his death.

John was appointed CBE in 1965 and elected FRCP in 1949 and FRS in 1963. He was president of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland 1957-9. At the Royal College of Physicians he gave the Charles West lecture in 1961 and the Lumleian (on "genetics in medicine") in 1971. He loved his family home near Denbigh, and country walks and splendid hospitality there were his principal recreations.—CAC.

G T HANKEY

OBE, TD, MRCS, LRCP, FRCS, FDS RCS

Mr G T Hankey, formerly consultant dental and oral surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital and The London Hospital, died on 4 January.

George Trevor Hankey was born in 1900 and grew up in an age of elegance. His former students will well remember him arriving in his beautiful old Rolls-Royce, and they will remember his courtesy, punctiliousness, and almost military manner and dress, which were part of a former era—perhaps serving in the first world war with the Royal Horse Artillery left its mark on him. He qualified in medicine at Guy's Hospital in 1925. He had some tragedies in his life in that he was a prisoner of war in the second world war and during this time his first wife and son died; but he also had some triumphs in that he married his first wife's sister, Mary, and subsequently lived a happy and full life.

He had many honours bestowed on him. He received the OBE, was made a member of the Legion of Merit of the United States of America, and was mentioned in dispatches, all for his work as commanding officer of the 12th General Hospital and the 141st Field Ambulance; and he became an honorary colonel of the Royal Army Medical Corps with a well deserved Territorial Decoration after the war. The honours that he received from his colleagues were also numerous. The London Hospital made him Sprawson lecturer for his contributions to that hospital. The Royal College of Surgeons of England, where he became vice dean, gave him the Tames prize and later the FRCS—this gave him enormous pleasure—for his long service to it. He was also made president of the British Association of Oral Surgeons. He was a lecturer and examiner at London University for a long time as well as Tames lecturer of the College of Surgeons.

George was a man who admired a man with an edge to him. His own edge was that he would fight his corner in any argument, regardless of the

numbers and strength of opposition arrayed against him. Sometimes he would win; when he lost he would give in graciously. His patients and dental students meant a lot to him. He was an enthusiastic golfer and tennis player and used to sing as a tenor in Gilbert and Sullivan opera with Guy's Choral Society. He is survived by his wife, Mary.—PLJ.

R T G CRAIG

TD, MB, BS, MRCP

Dr R T G Craig, a general practitioner in Dudley, Northumberland, died on 2 September, his 47th wedding anniversary, after a long illness. He was 74.

Robert Theodore Gilpin Craig was born on 28 October 1911, the son of an entertaining and colourful general practitioner in a pit village. He was educated at George Watson's Boys' College and Durham University. His intermittent undergraduate career was punctuated by prolonged periods spent as a petrol salesman, speedway rider, stunt driver, and repertory actor; he graduated in 1939, having been president of the students' union. He joined his father in practice in Dudley coincident with his marriage and the outbreak of war. The medical care of those who mined coal was of paramount importance to the war effort and prevented his joining the army, but he compromised by enthusiastic support of the Home Guard and later joined the territorials on their reformation, serving until 1967.

Although remaining a supporter of the BMA throughout his life, he was soured by the manner in which the NHS Act was introduced. He also joined the Medical Practitioners' Union and became its president during a difficult period in the 1950s. He had an overriding interest in the disabled and worked with Remploy for nearly 30 years. This interest preceded a devastating car crash in 1954, in which he himself became disabled. Nevertheless, after an absence of two and a half years he returned to his practice. Later he joined the Disablement Income Group and sat on the parliamentary committee that promulgated the Disablement Bill of 1974.

It was difficult to be unhappy in Bob's presence. He had an extraordinary capacity for mimicking accents and was a superlative raconteur. He thrived in crises and on several occasions was called down the pit after accidents; the humdrum caused him frustration. His services as a speaker were widely sought; his other recreation was golf. He is survived by his wife, Jessie; one son, who is a surgeon; three daughters; and nine grandchildren.

JSN writes: Bob's death severs one of the last links between the old time colliery general practitioner who lived over the shop, in close contact with but in social limbo between the miners and the colliery owners. He and his father were characters—even eccentrics—but loved by their patients. He graduated a little late, but he had so much else to do. His quick brain often homed in, correctly, on a rare differential diagnosis. His wide interests, his exploits, and his capacity as a raconteur rendered him a legend to those students who followed, and his appearance in the union after he qualified was

always the signal for a few young men to gather round to hear what he had to say. Denied war service himself as a pit doctor, he loved being in the Territorial Army and derived great pleasure in his son's career as a surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

A C SMITH

FRCPED, FRCPSYCH, DPM

Dr A C Smith, consultant psychiatrist to Bexley and Greenwich district hospitals and honorary lecturer at Guy's Hospital Medical School, died on 26 December after a sudden relapse of a long illness bravely borne. He was 51.

Andrew Croyden Smith had an outstanding career as undergraduate and graduate of Cambridge and University College Hospital. He graduated MB, BChir in 1958 and after winning the Gaskell gold medal of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1966 became chief assistant to the department of psychiatry at York Clinic, Guy's Hospital, and subsequently honorary lecturer in the academic department in the medical school. No kinder, wiser, or more conscientious doctor could have joined us then, and he ultimately went on to the consultant staff of Bexley Hospital, Greenwich District Hospital, and the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital.

Andrew was always concerned with truth; quietly determined in its pursuit, he was modestly humorous. For me, the updating of my textbook and his authorship of *Schizophrenia and Madness* typified this invaluable aspect of his work.

He is survived by his wife, Inge, and their three children, to whom he was devoted.—DS-C.

O B LEAN

MRCS, LRCP

Dr O B Lean, who was in general practice in Rushden, Northamptonshire, died on 8 December aged 88.

Oscar Bevan Lean was at school in Sidcot, Somerset, where his father was headmaster, and at Bootham, York. He then went for the last two years of the war to the western front to do ambulance and hospital work with the Section Sanitaire Anglaise. Subsequently he entered University College Hospital Medical School, which he represented in both hockey and tennis, and qualified in 1924. He entered practice in Rushden in 1926 and retired 41 years later.

Dr Lean was a representative at the annual representative meetings of the BMA for many years and chairman of the Kettering division in 1968-9. For many years he was secretary of the Northampton Medical Charity. He retained his interest in sport by taking up badminton and, later, golf. He met his wife, Mary, when she was a nurse at University College Hospital. She survives him with their three daughters.—AJBE.

ANN B MCNAUGHT

MB, CHB, PHD

Dr Ann B McNaught, who was lecturer in the department of physiology, University of Glasgow, from 1952 to 1981, died suddenly on 9 December.

Ann Boyce McNaught entered Glasgow University Medical School after wartime service with the hydrographic department of the Admiralty at Greenock. After graduating with commendation in 1951 she was soon recruited to the staff of the department of physiology, where she worked initially on the histology of fat absorption. In subsequent years she conducted the histology

classes and examinations in the department with military precision: a generation of Glasgow students probably still recall the dreaded sound of the bell that obliged them to move on to the next microscope to identify yet another histological "spot."

In the 1950s the illustrations in textbooks of physiology were mostly reproductions of classical experiments; didactic diagrams were few. In the department of physiology Mr Robin Callander, drawing initially on lecture illustrations built up over the years, constructed a series of illustrations for display along the corridors. As this collection grew Ann McNaught set about to make it more widely available. From this arose in 1963 the first edition of *Illustrated Physiology*, by McNaught and Callander, and subsequently *Nurses' Illustrated Physiology*, by the same team. These books were an immediate success, and each has now reached its fourth edition.—OFH.

R A CUMMING

OBE, FRCSED, FRCPED, FRCPATH

Dr R A Cumming, formerly director of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Blood Transfusion Service, died on 12 January aged 77.

Robert Alexander Cumming, studied medicine at Aberdeen and graduated MB, ChB in 1933.



After a series of hospital jobs he joined the Royal Air Force and served as medical officer. Taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore, he spent the remaining period of the war in Japanese prison camps on the Burma Railway. For his courage and professional dedication during this period he was awarded the OBE. For a short period after the war he returned to Singapore to assist in the restoration of the College of Medicine. In 1948, however, he was appointed director of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Blood Transfusion Service. On his arrival he headed a department with a staff of six; when he retired in 1974 a staff of more than 200 gathered.

There will be some who argue that Robert's most important professional contribution lay in the manner in which he saw, with great clarity and perception, the vital role that a community based transfusion service would have in a developing local health service. He built up a centre that provided the local hospitals not only with the blood and blood products they required but with a clinical consultancy service. He also saw the necessity to develop basic and applied research in his centre. Others would insist that Robert's most important contribution was nationally. He emerged in the 1960s as a crucial figure in the development of a coordinated and integrated Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, which is now one of the foremost of its kind in the world. Yet others would consider that Robert's greatest achievement was to conceive and press home the case for a modern plasma fractionation centre in Scotland; he was also closely involved in its detailed planning.

Robert Cumming was a shy, private, and kind man, and perhaps as a consequence his professional contributions were not widely known. He had an abiding interest in and concern for people. He worked tirelessly, through the aegis of the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical Education, to

lay the foundations on which is now emerging a new medical specialty, transfusion medicine.

Next to family and his work his great love was his garden: the balmy climes of Wiltshire, to which he retired, greatly extended his gardening year compared to the rigours of Edinburgh. He is survived by his wife, Marian, and their son, John.—JDC.

J BUNTING

CBE, TD, MB, BCH, BAO, FRCSE

Dr John Bunting, who was a general practitioner in Quinton, Birmingham, for nearly 50 years, died on 26 December while on holiday in Papua New Guinea. He was 75.

John Bunting was born in Belfast and educated at the Junior Technical College, Belfast, and at Queen's University. He qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1932, but his real ambition was to be a doctor, and he returned to Queen's to study medicine, during which time he acted as demonstrator in pharmacy and pharmacology. During his student career he was gold medallist in children's diseases (1932) and Hutchinson Stewart scholar (1934 and 1935) and won the Symington medal at Queen's and the Barker prize at the College of Surgeons, Dublin. He graduated in 1938, married Vera, a fellow medical graduate, and moved to Birmingham.

After brief assistantships John settled in practice in Quinton, where he worked until his retirement in 1985. From 1941 to 1946 he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, leaving his wife to run the practice. Despite his large and busy practice he subsequently became part time medical officer to several companies, including BP, Shell, and West Midlands Gas Board. As an anaesthetist of some attainment he served as clinical assistant at Birmingham Accident Hospital and for many years with the Birmingham school dental service. He was chairman of pension and industrial injuries boards.

John had a rewarding career in the Territorial Army, eventually becoming assistant director of medical services of the 48th territorial division and holding the rank of colonel. He was awarded the CBE in 1966. He was an enthusiastic freemason for over 50 years.

John was a highly competent and conscientious doctor. His letters referring patients to hospital were a model of brevity, and his diagnostic skill and clinical judgment earned him high respect among his colleagues. His patients were always allowed—even encouraged—to telephone him at any time, day or night, for advice or reassurance. His calm and unflappable manner, his ever cheerful disposition, and his generosity of hospitality made him a delightful and valued friend. His wife, Vera, died in 1985. He is survived by a son, three daughters, and 10 grandchildren.—VSB.

J R ASTON

MB, BS

Dr J R Aston, formerly a general practitioner in Birmingham, died on 9 January.

John Richard Aston originally intended becoming an Anglican priest but completed a BSc in horticulture first. Instead of registering as a conscientious objector he joined the Parachute Regiment and trained as a medical orderly. When the 6th airborne division crossed the Rhine he had the misfortune to land in an open sewerage pond, losing some of his equipment and his precious bar of soap: it was months before he felt really clean again. At the end of the war he decided to study medicine and joined a group of students almost

totally made up of ex-servicemen at the London Hospital Medical College in 1946. After graduating in 1952 he spent his professional life as a general practitioner in east Birmingham.

John retired in 1977 to live at Weobley, near Hereford, where he indulged in his hobby of gardening. He was an authority on rock plants. He is survived by his wife and their three children.—GAA.

H S BRODRIBB

DM

Dr H S Brodribb, lately consultant physician to the Hastings group of hospitals, died on 25 December aged 76.

Harold Swainson Brodribb was born on 28 April 1910; his father and grandfather practised in



Hastings and his great grandfather in London. He was educated at Lancing College and then studied medicine at University College, Oxford, and St Bartholomew's Hospital, graduating BM, BCh in 1934. After hospital appointments he joined his father's practice in Hastings. During

the war he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a graded physician with the rank of captain. He had an early interest in diabetes and was for a time a clinical assistant in the diabetic clinic at Barts. In 1945 he was appointed a physician to the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, and he founded the diabetic clinic there, which he subsequently supervised with distinction. When the NHS began he was appointed senior hospital medical officer to the Hastings group of hospitals, becoming consultant in 1963. In addition he was medical officer to several schools, Treasury medical officer, and Admiralty surgeon and agent. He was also a local magistrate for 30 years.

Harold was a kind man of integrity. He had a strong Christian faith and was a member of the Christian Medical Fellowship. His early love of music remained with him, and he was a keen gardener. After his retirement he continued to do locums. He is survived by his wife, Renée, three children, and eight grandchildren. His older son is a consultant surgeon and his younger son and daughter are in general practice.—LGS.

WINIFRED G NOTT

MB, CHB

Dr Winifred G Nott, one of the first two women doctors to enter general practice in Bristol, died on Christmas Day aged 90.

Winifred Grace Nott—Winnie—was educated at Clifton High School and Bristol University, where she graduated in medicine with honours in 1922. She was one of the first women medical students at Bristol General Hospital, where she held house appointments. As a woman she was unable to get into an established general practice, so she put up her plate at her home in Westbury Park and subsequently established her main practice in Stone Bishop, Bristol. She built up a busy family practice with a special interest in maternity work, being also a medical officer for child welfare clinics in Gloucestershire.

In 1940 a devastating daytime German air raid

on the Bristol Aeroplane Works killed and injured more than 500 people. Winnie was driving past and immediately went to give her services. Subsequently she became a member of a team of doctors who provided medical cover for the emergency hospital set up at the works. Particularly concerned with the welfare of the elderly, she was one of the prime movers in setting up Terrill House, a free church home in Clifton, and visited it and assessed applicants for admission.

Winnie was chairman of the Bristol division of the BMA in 1947-8 and in 1956 became the first woman president of the Bristol, Bath, and Somerset Branch. For several years she was one of the Bristol representatives to the annual representative meetings. In 1970 she was made a fellow of the BMA.

Winnie was inspired by her strong Christian faith and served as a deacon at the local Baptist church for many years. Every Wednesday evening her home was open to women for a "friendship guild." She came from a well known Bristol family and was the last survivor of 10 children. Her grandfather, a civil engineer, had been responsible for building the Severn Railway Tunnel, the Bristol Portway, and Manchester Ship Canal.—BDC, SCBW.

R J ORMSBY

TD, LRCP&SED, LRFPSGLAS, DPH

Dr R J Ormsby, who was formerly in practice in Standish, Lancashire, died on 12 January aged 81.

Robert Jordan Ormsby qualified in medicine in 1927, having trained at Manchester Medical School. He succeeded his father in the practice in Standish in the early 1930s. Much respected in the village, he knew most of his patients by their Christian names. He was a magistrate for a time, chairman of the Wigan division of the BMA, honorary consulting physician to the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and medical officer of health for Standish council. He joined the territorials at the outbreak of war and served in the Burma campaign, surviving several severe bouts of malaria and becoming a colonel in charge of a field ambulance.

Bob was a shrewd clinician and always correct with medical etiquette: on domiciliary consultation with a consultant he made a point of accompanying his colleague to introduce him at the patient's home. The diagnosis was not discussed in detail until both had returned to his house for a glass of sherry. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter.—WW.

F J BURNS

MB, BCH, BAO

Dr F J Burns, a general practitioner in Doncaster for 43 years, died suddenly on 28 December. He was 67.

Francis Joseph Burns—Joe to his friends—was born in Edgeworthstown, County Longford, Eire, and was educated at Sligo School. After studying medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, and graduating in 1944, he moved to England to work at Rotherham General Hospital and subsequently entered general practice as an assistant in Doncaster. Within two years he had become a principal in a town centre practice, shortly becoming the senior partner.

Joe was always prominent in the medical circles within the town, being a staunch supporter of postgraduate education and chairman of the local medical committee from 1969 to 1974. His other interests included gardening and travel, and he had a passion for horse racing. With his keen mind he

could work out bridge hands and provide answers to mathematical problems to equal any calculator.

During his 40 years within the practice he saw it develop from a singlehanded, one centre practice to a five partner group working from two centres. Throughout it was evident that he was interested in people, being always willing to help both patient and friend whether on duty or not. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, three children, and three grandchildren.—KAK.

E ALLAN LAH

Dr Edgar Allan, a general practitioner in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, has died. He qualified in medicine from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1953 and became a partner in a practice in Enniskillen in 1954. For 30 years he also was anaesthetist to the children's dental clinic in the town.

E N GAULD FRCP, FRCP(C), FCCP

Dr Edgar Norman Gauld, who had worked as consultant physician with an interest in cardiology at Hamilton Civic Hospital since 1956, died on 19 September aged 71. He graduated MB, ChB at Aberdeen University in 1937 and served with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during the war. He emigrated to Canada in 1952.

P F KENNISH MRCS, LRCP

Dr Peter Forbes Kennish, a general practitioner in Bayswater, London, has died. He qualified in medicine at St Mary's Hospital in 1944 and after working at Harefield and Putney hospitals was appointed medical superintendent of the Hertford British Hospital in Paris. He set up in practice in Bayswater in 1948. He is survived by his daughter, Katharine, and two grandchildren.

J M MUIR MB, BS, FRCS

Dr John Malcolm Muir, who was in private practice in Corner-Brook and later Abbotsford, Newfoundland, died on 10 December aged 45. He graduated in medicine from Durham University in 1965 and after national service in the RAF trained in orthopaedics in Oswestry and Liverpool. He set up in private practice in Canada in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Nikki, and seven children.

MURIEL B O'DOHERTY MB, BCH, BAO, DPM

Dr Muriel Bridget O'Doherty, who worked in psychiatry in Oxford, York, Basingstoke, and Maidstone before her retirement in 1974, died on 21 November aged 76. She graduated in medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, in 1934 and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in England, India, and Burma during the second world war and later in England and Germany before moving into psychiatry.

MARGARET B WILKINSON

MB, CHB, MRCGP, DCH

Dr Margaret Beatrice Wilkinson, who was a general practitioner in Cardiff, died on 1 November aged 66. She graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1953 and held appointments at St David's Hospital, Cardiff, before becoming a partner in a practice in Cardiff. She is survived by her husband.